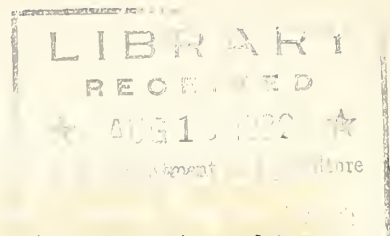


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### ECONOMIC VALUES OF 4-H CLUB WORK

A radio talk by James K. Harris, 4-H club member, Butler County, Ohio, to be delivered Saturday, August 6, 1932, in the National 4-H club radio program, broadcast by a network of 57 associate NBC radio stations.

4-H club members and friends of 4-H clubs: Did you ever ask yourself why 4-H club work has thrived and grown through the greatest crisis of all history, the present extended depression? In the past 12 years 4-H membership in Ohio has increased steadily from about 8,000 in 1920 to over 46,000 in 1932. It seems to me the development in numbers and variety of interest of 4-H clubs has been closely related to the economic situation of the country. Why? Because 4-H club work has been responsive to the needs of the farm.

This ready response to existing conditions has emphasized the value of clubs. What are some of these values causing the public to recognize club work and bring about its steadily increasing growth? We may classify them into three main groups--educational, social, and economic. During these trying times the economic values of 4-H club activities are standing out more than ever before. It seems to me that the economic values are of two kinds--direct and indirect. By direct economic values of 4-H work, I mean the sort of results we can measure in dollars and cents. Of course we can't measure the indirect results in terms of money.

The money income from a project certainly can be classed as a direct value. Roy Truster, a boy in my community, bought a pure bred dairy calf six years ago that started a high producing herd of 15 cattle. During the past years, business organizations throughout our country have seen how earnestly 4-H club members undertake their projects. The business men see that club members apply the best practices developed by state agricultural colleges and the United States Department of Agriculture. So business men are willing to cooperate because they can feel sure that the income from a project will be great enough to pay back their investment. Club members are able to earn enough money to buy more high grade animals or perhaps save it to pay their way through college.

Another direct economic value of 4-H club work is the furthering of a father and son partnership in the farm business. This is especially true in livestock farming. A club member begins with an individual animal. The father becomes interested in the up-to-date practices which his son uses. Through the course of several years, a pure bred herd is developed and father begins to realize that high grade farm animals are really more economical to raise and bring greater returns. Later, neighbors, and finally, farmers of a whole locality see the values of pure bred livestock and they too develop high producing herds.

Besides father-and-son partnerships a closer relation between mother and her 4-H daughter is developed as they share their failures and successes in baking, canning, and sewing.

Now let's look at the indirect economic values of 4-H work--the values which we can't measure. The thorough training in raising pigs, making dresses, preparing meals, constructing bird houses, feeding calves which club work

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furnishes members, is probably the most outstanding indirect worth. We learn methods and practices not out of books but out of the living things and laboratories of every day life. After club members practice judging farm animals they are better able to select breeding stock for their herds. Applying practices they learn in home economics projects 4-H club members help their families to dress economically, appropriately, and comfortably, to eat nutritious meals, to keep healthy, to make the home more attractive, and to furnish more of the family living from the farm.

4-H club work helps young people to make use of the economic and social opportunities of the country. They develop a pride in home and farm life and a deeper interest in helping to improve their own surroundings. At present 4-H club work is acting as a medium for the improvement of country life. And as the power of this rural youth movement continues to grow, its influence upon future generations will grow.

In conclusion, 4-H club work is filling a need in the life of people by furnishing direct economic values, namely - money incomes. Club activities also furnish indirect economic values; educational practices and habits of economy and improvement. The participation of boys or girls in club activities has resulted in a knowledge of and a more lively interest in the growing things on the farm, in increased health and comfort of living and in greater economic returns. And, don't let us forget, it is producing results in terms of personality and character building that can never be measured. Such results are intangible but after all may be the most important.